

DOVER DIARY

Newsletter of Dover Baptist Association
Vol. L, No. 3 March 2025

If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14 NKJV)

He raises the poor out of the dust and lifts the needy out of the ash heap. (Psalm 113:7 NKJV)

Out of the Ash Wednesday



How do you even begin to recover from this kind of devastation? Those were the first words of the first thought I had after entering the north end of Altadena, California. There I stood amidst the ashes, twisted burnt metal, shattered glass, and charred brick, block, and wood consumed by the California wildfires. Here, where my shoes temporarily left footprints in the soot, once stood beautiful homes with well-maintained lawns and vehicles, profitable businesses, laughter-filled school yards, and sacred places of worship. Now, they were gone and/or at best, barely recognizable.

I thought about the words of the Psalmist who wrote, "He raises the poor out of the dust, and lifts the needy out of the ash heap." The poor and needy, in this case, I surmised, aren't necessarily destitute financially, but a plethora of destitute diverse families and faiths (or none), who are poor in spirit, discouraged, exhausted, frustrated, and in desperate need of Christ's love.

As I took in the devastation, a reporter happened to drive by. He stopped and asked if any of these heaps had been my home. I told him no, and that I was part of an association of Baptist churches supporting the work of The Abiding Church. The Abiding Church is a local Baptist Body of Christ, who are ministering to those both inside and out of their church families. One of their ministries is called an "Ash Out." Church members go with families to their homes and rummage through the ashes to help the wildfire victims find jewelry and other valuable items, even if the value is only sentimental.

One widow, I learned, was searching for a jade ring her late husband had given her. Another family we met, a young husband and wife with one and three-year-old daughters, had fled the wildfire with only a handful of clothes and items they grabbed for their girls. Admittedly I beamed with pride as my daughter, a graphic developer for Patagonia, came to worship with boxes of the outfitters clothes to help reoutfit the young couple and others.

The actionable call of Psalm 113:7 I reasoned, is where you and I come in. To paraphrase, I would submit that "He," The Lord our God uses His servants to "raise the poor out of the dust." "He," The Lord our God, uses His servants to lift "the needy out of the ash heap."

Since, as a Baptist, I'm not governed by the liturgical practices & parameters of Ash Wednesday, I'm making a personal declaration this March 5th to celebrate "Out of the Ash Wednesday," or perhaps better yet, "Ash (Out) Wednesday." My plan is to pray and fast for the victims of the California wildfires and contribute to those in need. I invite you to join me.

I also plan to lift in prayer those affected by the massive layoffs in government, and the poor – both those financially poor, and poor in spirit, who are struggling mightily. Most importantly, I am praying for unity in my country, in my denomination, and in our churches. I'm claiming the words of the Old Testament Chronicler who delivered the words of The Lord our God, that if I humble myself, pray, seek His face, and turn from my wicked ways, then He will hear from Heaven, forgive my sin, and heal our land. And, Lord knows, we need healing. God bless.

DBA Upcoming Events & Deadlines

Visit www.doverbaptist.org or call the Dover office at (804) 550-1980 for more information.

Weekly Pastor/Minister Support Group, Dover Office & Zoom. Mondays, 9:30 a.m., and Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.



Legacy Grandparenting Summit • 2025

Grandparenting Matters

REGISTER NOW



Cool Spring Baptist Church
MARCH 15, 2025 • 9 am-4:30 pm
EXCELLENT SPEAKER LINE UP
coolspring.org/XXXXXX



Pray For These:

Our Dover Staff and all Dover churches:

March 2:

East Gate: Rev. Griendora McDowell, Georgia Kelly, Angela Moore

Elon: Rev. Randy Secrist, Beth Reed, Sharon Secrist

March 9:

Emmaus: Dr. Tim Madison, Sylvia Coates, Heather Torrence

March 16:

Fort Lee: Daniel McFaden (Interim), Susan Nowell

Four Mile Creek: Pastor Buddy Burgess (Interim), Martha Ligon

March 23:

Glen Allen: Dr. Melissa Fallen, Rev. Darie Lee, Rev. Ann Carter,

Janet Kessler, Kay Landry, Debbie Mitchell, Debbie Gordon

March 30:

Goochland: Dr. Curt Kruschwitz, Leslie Hepburn

Grace Chinese: Pastor Perry Cheng, Pastor Ro Penaranda, Pastor

Carter Tan, Pastor David Meng, David Kim, Evelyn Yao

Grace Community: Dr. Chris Jones, Rev. Jared Snead, Julie Newton,

Brenda Burnett

A special prayer for the following churches that are in transition:

Beulah Fort Lee Hillcrest

Ridge Pamunkey Indian

To access our Dover calendar, please check out our website homepage: www.doverbaptist.org

Dover Semi-Annual Meeting/Child Protection Lunch & Learn:

Corinth Baptist Church, Saturday, April 26, beginning @10:30 AM. Join fellow church leaders for an information-packed update on Dover Missions & Ministries followed by a working lunch to learn essential components of a Child/Youth Abuse Protection Program! For info/To Register, call Dover office at (804) 550-1980 or email Dover.Info@doverbaptist.org



Virginia Festival Concert
5:00 PM, March 29th
Mechanicsville Baptist Church
8016 Atlee Rd
Mechanicsville, VA
Kathy Ebling Shaw, Guest Conductor

Congratulations!



Congratulations to Grace Chinese Baptist Church on the call and installation of **Pastor Perry Cheng** (center). Founding **Pastor David Meng** (far left) was also reinstated to the Elder Board for a new term. During the installation service, Grace Chinese BC worshipped together with Living Hope Church, the English-speaking congregation of GBCBR with the service in both Chinese and English.

Congratulations Dover Baptist Association Finance Chair Martha Padgett and husband Dillon on the birth of Annabelle Patricia Padgett on February 1



Condolences...

Our heartfelt condolences and prayers for Rev. William 'Bill' Miller of Berea Baptist Church and his family on the passing of his beloved wife Debbie on February 16.





DOVER Hepler Scholarship

Applications for the Dover Hepler Scholarship are now being accepted! Please have all applications turned in by March 15th.

<https://www.doverbaptist.org/hepler-scholarship>

ASHLAND WISH YOU WERE HERE

Saturday, March 8



Sincerely, Isis



Mackenzie Roark and the Hotpants



Little Tangents (House Band)

Starts 7pm
(doors open 6:15pm)

Ashland Theatre
205 England St
Ashland, VA

wishyouwereherelive.com

SCAN FOR TICKETS
\$13 ONLINE
\$15 @ DOOR



Hosted by Bryan Dupuis



Dover WMU

FEED THE HUNGER



Join the **Dover Baptist Association WMU** for a **Feed the Hunger** event held at **North Run Baptist Church** on **Saturday, March 22, 2025, 2-4:30pm**. Send an email to **Sharon McKinley** at wmumission@aol.com and type on the Subject line: **Feed the Hunger** event.

Shine 2025 held at Crossroads Camp from March 21-23, is designed to empower teen girls in grades 6-12 to grow spiritually, form lasting connections, and discover their God-given purpose. Find more information here: **Shine: A Weekend for Teen Girls — WMU**

- **Sheets For MK:** If you have any questions or would like to discuss sponsoring an MK, you can contact Rhonda Marstin at rmarstin@wmuv.org or (434) 941-7364. Additionally, you can ship items directly to Rhonda at: 2136 Midway Rd, Gretna, VA 24557
- **Virtual Book Study:** We're excited to invite you to a 4-week virtual study of *Just a Sister Away* by Renita Weems. This book explores the powerful relationships between women in the Bible, offering a vision of healing through sisterhood. For questions, email Jenee' at jshearin@wmuv.org.
- **Hand-Crafted:** retreat at CrossRoads on March 14-15. Craft, relax & reflect in a space where faith and artistry blend seamlessly. Interested Have questions? Feel free to email Jenee' at jshearin@wmuv.org.



DOVER MINISTRY PARTNER EVENTS

- **COFFEE, CARBS & KIDS - Child/Youth Abuse Protection Webinar with ECAP (Evangelical Council for Abuse Prevention)**
Join us at the Dover Baptist Association on **Wednesday, March 12 at 9 am** sharp to learn more about abuse prevention and child & youth protection. This training is ideal for ministry leaders, pastors, administrators, staff, teachers and volunteers. If you can't come to Dover, you can join via Zoom. Learn more & register at : <https://ecap.net/event/northstar-safeguards-stewardship/>
- **Clergy Day: Secondary Trauma and Soul Care for Ministers-** In partnership with the annual chaplain training event hosted by Baptist Chaplaincy Relations, all ministers are invited to **CLERGY DAY on Tuesday, April 8, from 8:00 am to 4:30 PM**. Sponsored by the Dover Baptist Association and supported by the Alma Hunt State Missions Offering, the cost is only \$25 and includes lunch. Sessions will focus on stress prevention and an action plan for a successful and healthy career in ministry. The event is at 2828 Emerywood Pkwy, Henrico, VA 23294. For more information and to register click <https://secure.bgav.org/site/Calendar?id=100921&view=Detail>

Updates:

Please inform dover.info@doverbaptist.org of any staff changes so that our information is accurate and up-to-date for your church.

Please also let us know if the new staff would prefer our communications (*Dover Diary* and weekly email news blast) to their personal or work email address.



Dover Baptist Association
PO Box 6128
Ashland, VA 23005
"A Resource Network for Baptist
Churches since 1783"

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 3022
Richmond, VA

Positions Available

Black Creek Baptist Church seeks a **Musical Accompanist (part-time)**. Any potential applicants can reach out to bliz0204@yahoo.com

Corinth Baptist Church seeks a **Minister for Next Generation and Family Ministries (full-time)**. Interested? Send résumés to NextGen@corinthbaptist.us

Mount Vernon Baptist Church is seeking **Child Care Workers**, a **Special Needs Ministry Assistant for Students (part-time)**, and a **Ministry Assistant for Student Ministries (full-time)**. For more info and/or apply: <https://mountvernon.church/careers/>

New Highland Baptist Church seeks an **Accompanist (part-time)**. Send résumés to: djevers254@gmail.com

Pamunkey Indian Baptist Church seeks a **Pastor (full-time)**. Email Aindian02@aol.com.

Gayton Baptist Church seeks a **Youth Ministry Assistant (part time)** for more information use this link to see full posting. <https://www.doverbaptist.org/post/youth-interim-gayton-baptist-church>

Parham Road Baptist Church seeks a **Choir Director/Pianist (part-time)**. Please send résumés to churchofficeprbc@gmail.com with attention: Elaine Lane.

Pioneer Baptist Church seeks a **Pianist (part-time)**. Interests please contact office@pioneerbaptist.comcastbiz.net

Pioneer Baptist Church seeks a **Administrative Assistant (part-time)**. Interests please contact office@pioneerbaptist.comcastbiz.net

Faith Community Academy Elementary School is seeking an **Elementary School Teacher** for the 2025-2026 school year. email the Academy Director at fca.elementary@bereabaptistva.com

Non-Dover Baptist Association Opportunities

First Baptist Church, Richmond seeks a **Payroll/Accounts Payable Coordinator (full-time)**. Visit: www.fbcrichmond.org/about/careers

Gravel Hill Baptist Church of Richmond seeks a **Church Pianist/Keyboardist (part-time)**. Send résumés to: [kcj.gravelhill@gmail.com](mailto:kcyj.gravelhill@gmail.com).

May Memorial Baptist Church seeks a **Music Minister and/or Organist (part-time)**. Send résumés to Pastor Michael Edwards, revmkedwards@gmail.com.

Braille Circulating Library seeks an **Executive Director** For a job application or questions, please contact BrailleLibTreasurer@gmail.com

Carlisle Avenue Baptist Church Richmond is in search of a **pianist/worship leader**. for more info call Tom Williams at (804) 490-1071.



Help Us Save Green & Go Green— Currently, we publish over 1,000 mailed copies of the Dover Diary! In an effort to reduce this expense and "go green," if you receive a postal copy, please let us know if you wish to continue to receive hard-copies or supply an email address. Otherwise, eventually 5 hard-copies will be mailed to all member churches and all other contacts will receive digital copies.